

CLAIMS

1. A movable platform unit (1) for a boat (B), in particular for launching or hauling out a tender or similar craft, which includes a base portion (2), secured to the boat (B), and at least one swing arm (32a, 32b) pivoted by one end to the said base portion (2) and by the other to a loading platform (3), the said at least one swing arm (32a, 32b) being rotatable by a first drive member (57) secured thereto and rotatable about the pivoting axis (x) of the swing arm (32a, 32b) onto the base portion (2), alignment means (67, 68) being provided for connecting the said platform (3) with a second drive member (65a) fixed to the said base portion (2) and coaxial with the pivoting axis (x) of the swing arm (32a, 32b) on the base portion (2), in such a way that the platform (3) is enabled to remain at a constant inclination to the said base portion (2) during rotation of the said at least one swing arm (32a, 32b), characterised in that

the said first drive member (57) includes a pulley element securely fixed to the said at least one swing arm (32a, 32b) and operable to be rotated by first chain drive means (55), the said chain drive means (55) and the said pulley element (57) being enclosed within at least one hollow fixed arm (22a, 22b) provided in a cavity (21) of the base portion (2), and the said at least one swing arm (32a, 32b) being pivoted to the distal end of the said at least one fixed arm (22a, 22b) in such a way that the swing arm (32a, 32b) can assume a closed position, in which it lies flat in the cavity (21) of the base portion (2).

2. A platform unit according to Claim 1, in which the said second drive member (65a) includes a pulley element secured to the said base portion (2), and the said platform (3) is

secured to a further pulley element (67), the said second transmission member (65a) and the said pulley element (67) being connected by second chain drive means (68) so as to be rotatable together in relation to the swing arm (32a, 32b).

3. A platform unit according to any preceding Claim, in which the said at least one swing arm (32a, 32b) has a plurality of step elements (35, 35a) mounted along its length for facilitating access to the platform (3) by users.

4. A platform unit according to Claim 3, in which the said alignment means (67, 68) connect the said load platform (3) and the said second drive member (65a) to third drive means (65), secured to the said plurality of step elements (35, 35a) and rotatable about axes parallel to the axis (x) about which the swing arm (32a, 32b) is pivoted on the base portion (2) in such a way as to enable the said plurality of step elements (35, 35a) constantly to maintain substantially the same inclination as the said platform (3) during rotation of the said at least one swing arm (32, 32a).

5. A platform unit according to Claim 4, in which the said third drive means (65) include a plurality of pulley elements, each secured to a respective step element (35), the said second chain drive means (68) also connecting the pulley elements (65) of the step elements (35) to the pulley element of the second drive member (65a) in such a way that these pulley elements are rotatable together relative to the swing arm (32a, 32b).

6. A platform unit according to any preceding Claim, in which the said base portion (2) is adapted to be fixed to the structure of a boat (B).

7. A platform unit according to Claim 1, in which the said first chain drive means (55) is capable of being driven alternately by first and second hydraulic-cylinder control means (51, 52), operable to be controlled selectively by solenoid valve means (59).